

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 111820Z NOV 75
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4520
SEDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T USNATO 6129

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJECT: NPG - PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF NPG MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: A. STATE 266236 DTG 110208Z NOV 75
B. STATE 265519 DTG 081901Z NOV 75

1. NPG PERMREPS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 TO DISCUSS PROPOSED POSTPONEMENT OF HAMBURG NPG MEETING. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REF A, CHARGE, DEFAD (LEGERE) AND POLAD (PEREZ) MET INDIVIDUALLY WITH AMBASSADORS/CHARGES OF NPG DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTED US RATIONALE CONTAINED IN REF B FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE NPG MEETING. ALL EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF US REASONING, AND AGREED WITH DESIRABILITY OF POSTPONING HAMBURG MEETING UNTIL SECDEF COULD PARTICIPATE.

2. THE NPG AMBASSADORS/CHARGES WERE UNANIMOUS IN BELIEVING THAT DECEMBER 8 WAS INFEASIBLE AS AN ALTERNATIVE DATE. THEY ALL CONVEYED THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE MEETING, WHEN RESCHEDULED, WOULD BE HOSTED BY GERMANY. KRAPF (GERMANY) SAID THAT THE FRG HAD ALREADY CANCELLED THE HOTEL AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS FOR HAMBRUG,
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NOTING FURTHER THAT PROTOCOL STAFFS IN BONN WERE ALREADY STUDYING THE QUESTION OF HOW MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE THEY WILL REQUIRE TO RESCHEDULE THE MEETING.

3. MENZIES (CANADA), HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS), AND SVART (DENMARK) NOTED THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM THAT WOULD ARISE IF THE NPG IS RESCHEDULED AFTER JANUARY 1, 1976, SINCE ON THAT DATE BELGIUM AND DENMARK ROTATE OFF THE NPG AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL, AND CANADA, NETHERLANDS, AND NORWAY ROTATE ON. THEY THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PROBLEM COULD BE WORKED OUT, PERHAPS BY DEFERRING ROTATION UNTIL AFTER NEXT MEETING SO THAT NONE OF THE ROTATING MEMBERS WERE SHORTED ON THEIR NORMAL NUMBER OF THREE NPG MINISTERIAL MEETINGSIN EACH CYCLE.

4. COMMENT: WE INTEND TO DRAW ON GUIDANCE IN REFS A AND B AT NOVEMBER 12 NPG PERMREPS MEETING. NO FURTHER GUIDANCE REQUIRED.STREATOR

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